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WILL MAN EVER REACH THE PLANETS?

What He is Likely to Find

It has long been a dream of Man that visits could be made to other worlds; and there are many people who believe that the time may soon be at hand when the dream will become reality.

If Man ever succeeds in building a "space ship" capable of transporting him to the other planets, what should he do when he lands on them?

This question was asked and answered by Mr Olaf Stapledon, the author and philosopher, when he lectured to members of the British Interplanetary Society in London recently.

Mr Stapledon told his listeners that men may be able to reach other planets within a few decades. Pioneers (he said) would be equipped not only with food, water, and air for their journey, but with pressure suits, oxygen, and ample water for their stay.

Natural Resources

Everything really significant about these desert worlds might be learned by circumnavigating them without landing.

Apart from curiosity and adventure, the obvious motive for exploring the planets is the hope of discovering immense fields of natural resources and exploiting them for human welfare. They might yield valuable stores of uranium or other sources of atomic power, or any of the rarer elements or minerals.

Sooner or later a united mankind, equipped with science and power, will probably turn its attention to other planets, not only for economic exploitation, but also as possible homes for Man. Perhaps the most promising is Mars. That small, cold, arid world might be rendered at least habitable, if not a paradise for Man. All necessary materials would be present in the crust of the planet itself. But unless the Martian atmosphere could be augmented quite a lot, and the surface temperature greatly raised, the specialised human Martians would probably lack the vital energy for any kind of highly-developed civilisation.

Inhabited Planets?

With Venus, said Mr Stapledon, the task would probably be much more formidable. The first problem would be to alter the composition of the atmosphere which, so far as is known, is quite unsuited to terrestrial life. The possibility that Jupiter or some other planet is inhabited by some minute, intelligent creatures whose constitution is quite unknown to us, should not be dismissed. But (Mr Stapledon added) it seems unlikely that any of the other worlds within the solar system is inhabited by any race even approaching man in intelligence.

On the question of the uninhabited planets it was suggested that Man should use them neither for the sole purpose of increasing his luxury, nor simply as a means of power for mere power's sake. He should use them for the spirit. He should avail himself of their resources in such

ways as to advance the expression of the spirit in the life of mankind.

If Man's motive in exploiting the planets was simply to increase the luxury of human beings on earth—involving industrial settlements on the planets but not necessarily large-scale colonisation—a society would be created in which everybody had privileges only millionaires have today. Machines would be every man's tireless, obedient slaves.

But the best motive for controlling the planets would be to make the best of Man, said Mr Stapledon. If any planets are inhabited, Man should adopt a relationship of genuine community with the non-human intelligences, co-operating with them for mutual spiritual and economic enrichment.

THRILLING it is to take such a peep into the future with Mr Stapledon. Let us hope, however, that Man will learn much more about ordinary human relationships in those few decades which must pass before he ventures across space and into other worlds, and thus make his own world a better place to live in.

A LONG BLOW



A Bronze Age ceremonial trumpet, known as a Lur, which can be seen at the Danish Art Exhibition in London. See page 5

A Fish Story That Astonished the World

SCIENTISTS in South Africa are so anxious to secure a live specimen of a coelacanth fish—a species which until 1939 was believed to have been extinct for 50 million years—that a reward of £100 is offered to the fisherman who catches one.

A five-foot specimen of this fish, which has been nicknamed "a living dinosaur," was captured off the coast of South Africa early in 1939 by a trawler which was fishing in about 40 fathoms near East London, Cape Province. It came to the surface in a mixed-trawl catch of food fishes and sharks. The strangely-named coelacanth lived for some time after capture. It was described as being a brilliant steel-blue colour when alive, with large, dark-blue eyes. It weighed 127 pounds and was noticed to be unusually oily.

A Museum Specimen

When it reached port, the fish was acquired by Miss Courtenay-Latimer, curator of the East London Museum, who at once wrote to Dr J. L. B. Smith, of Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, Cape Colony. He was on holiday, and so the letter did not reach him for ten days. By then the fish had been skinned and mounted by a local taxidermist. Two photographs of the fish, taken soon after it was caught, were sent to Britain. The specimen itself was retained in the East London Museum.

When, some weeks later, Mr J. R. Norman of the British Museum read, at a meeting of the Linnean Society, a paper describing this remarkable fish, he said that there was no place for the fish in any classification of existing fishes, but that it was "an undoubted member of a subclass of the Bony Fishes, the Crossopterygii," a group represented today by the rare and comparatively degenerate lung-fishes of the fresh waters of Africa, South America, and Australia.

In the Depths

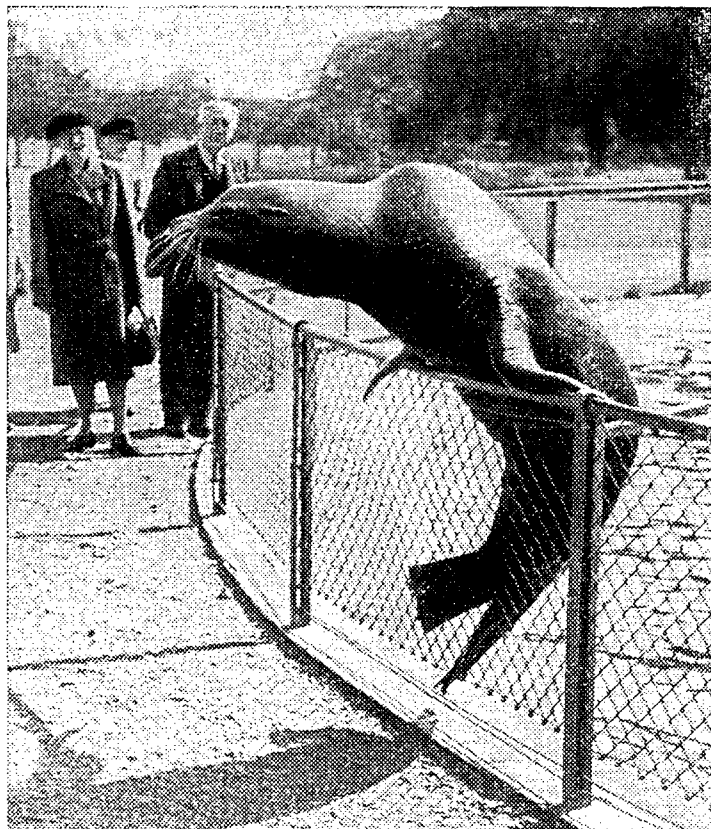
The fact that no fossil coelacanths were to be found in strata later than those of the Upper Cretaceous made the discovery of the living fish in South African seas very remarkable, he added.

Mr Norman also said he could not believe that these fish were ordinarily to be found in the grounds trawled by commercial fishing vessels. But he thought it possible that previous specimens had been caught and thrown back into the sea.

Scientists believe the fish is either an inhabitant of much greater depths or of places where the sea bottom is too rocky to be trawled. Its build suggests it is a slow swimmer and long-baited lines might be the best means of catching another specimen.

It is Dr Smith of Rhodes University who has now decided to award £100 to the lucky fisherman who lands a second specimen.

OVER THE TOP!



When Snap, the sea-lion at the Whipsnade Zoo, sees his keeper approaching with his daily rations it needs more than a wire fence to stop Snap from going to greet him.

Keeping the Wheels Turning MACHINES THAT NEVER NEED OILING

A BEARING that needs no oiling is now being incorporated into all sorts of light machinery. Many new vacuum cleaners have them, and also the latest sewing machines. In addition, brushes of electric motors are now being made of spongy metal, as the material is called. It is metal with a multitude of microscopic holes throughout its composition, and these holes are pressed full of oil, so that as the bearing or the brushes wear away the oil is released and keeps the part lubricated.

It has been known for some time that metals absorb oil. For example, a piece of iron freshly filed will rust in a short time, but if it has been rubbed

with oil the oil sinks in and rusting is not so likely to occur. This is thought to be due to the oil finding its way into natural veins and interstices in the iron.

In spongy metal, however, the interstices have been artificially inserted and the metal absorbs much more oil, so much so that if a piece of it is gripped in a vice tiny globules of oil can be seen oozing out. When the pressure is released capillary attraction draws the oil in again.

The new bearings are useful for positions where it is difficult to get at the bearing to oil it, and where the unskilful may do more harm than good with the oilcan. During the life of the machine it never needs oiling.

A JAMBOREE DOWN UNDER

BOY SCOUTS and bulldozers are busy preparing a site near Melbourne for a Pan-Pacific Jamboree which is to be attended by Scouts from many lands from December 29 to January 9 next. The 100-acre site which has been lent for the Jamboree is situated in undulating and well-timbered country in the hills only 20 miles east of Melbourne; it includes a fine frontage along the River Yarra.

Eleven thousand boys are expected to attend the Jamboree, which is sponsored by the Boy Scouts International Bureau in London. Invitations have been sent to 40 countries. Pakistan

has already applied to send 200 boys, and invitations have been accepted by Hong Kong, Malaya, the Philippines, Fiji, Nauru, South Africa, Canada, and the United States.

In addition 500 Scouts will go from New Zealand, 3000 from New South Wales, 600 from Queensland, 600 from South Australia, 300 from Tasmania, and 100 from West Australia. Victoria itself will have some 4000 boys there.

Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the Commonwealth and Empire, will attend what is believed will be the biggest Jamboree ever held south of the equator.

BROTHERHOOD OF NATIONS

When Parliament Gets to Work

IN a world beset by problems the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers now concluding in London has come like a ray of sunshine in a darkened sky. The note of harmony was struck by King George in his address of welcome when he referred to "the Councils of Our Brotherhood of Nations."

Although less formal than the great Imperial Conferences of the past the gathering may be regarded as one of the most important in the annals of the British Empire.

The reasons for its special importance are not far to seek. The world is passing through a most difficult phase. Not only is there very considerable political tension, but great economic difficulties face mankind. Many countries have to cope with grave problems of rehabilitation and recovery. The American-sponsored Marshall Aid plan has given great courage to them, but such help alone is not enough. They must do most of the work themselves, and a tremendous effort is needed if recovery is to become a fact.

Co-operation

This difficult path is the one Britain herself is following; and in doing so she is in the unique and fortunate position of being able to count on the co-operation and help of a great number of countries closely associated with her, many sharing the heritage of a common language and culture and peopled to a large extent by her kinsmen; and, what is perhaps most important, sharing identical political and social beliefs.

The wide dispersal of the British Commonwealth nations, the fact that oceans and seas divide them from each other and from the Mother Country, sometimes causes people to underrate the tremendous potential and actual strength of the group. Its size alone is a surprise to most people—it covers the vast area of nearly 16 million square miles, and every fourth human being is a British subject. The range of products which the Commonwealth agricultural, mining, and other industries can turn out—that is, its economic potential—is almost limitless.

Economic Resources

The British Commonwealth and Empire (which includes also the colonies and other non-self-governing territories) are responsible for the production of nearly one-fourth of the world's food. The economic resources of this big family are the greatest ever assembled in one political system.

The importance of the home-land's trade with her far-flung associates is indicated by the fact that in a normal year she takes about half of her grain and flour, cheese, and other dairy products from them and two-fifths of her meat supplies. As to raw materials, 80 per cent of her rubber and wool come from Malaya and Australia, while half of the nuts and seeds for oil and the essential non-ferrous metals are of Empire origin. As to Britain's exports, the Commonwealth and Empire take most of her iron and steel, electrical goods, machinery, cotton yarn, hardware, and vehicles.

This brief summary gives some indication of the strong economic links which bind the various units of the British Commonwealth. But its resources are by no means yet fully utilised. There is still room for expansion, and the need for such expansion is most urgent

because of the great requirements of post-war rehabilitation. This is one of the reasons why the talks of the Prime Ministers have been of such vital importance. Economic expansion calls for more men and more machinery; both are badly needed by such countries as Australia and Canada. Therefore emigration and exports from Britain have taken an important place in the Commonwealth talks.

Besides economic discussions, political problems such as Britain's position in Europe formed another vital part of these exchanges.

The Prime Ministers have discussed many things of the greatest importance to our Brotherhood of Nations, but because of the prominent part it plays in world affairs their deliberations will affect developments in every part of the globe.

The First Plane Goes Home

THE Kitty Hawk, the historic aeroplane of the pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright, which has been at the Science Museum in London since 1928, is due to leave for America, packed in crates, in the Mauretania on November 6. It was the first power-driven man-carrying aeroplane to make a flight, its first flight lasting 12 seconds and its last 59 seconds.

It will be preserved at the National Air Museum in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, and should arrive there in good time for the 45th anniversary of its historic first flight on December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina.

The return of this historic plane to the United States is in accordance with the wishes of Orville Wright who, in 1943, informed the Science Museum of his intention to withdraw the aeroplane at some later date. Mr Wright died last January.

An exact replica of the Kitty Hawk will take its place at the Science Museum.

National Thanksgiving

A GREAT national harvest festival is to be held at Westminster Abbey next Saturday afternoon, October 30, and it will be attended by the King and Queen.

It will be the biggest harvest thanksgiving service ever held in this country, and Young Farmers and land girls will be well to the fore, forming a procession which will enter the Abbey with symbolic gifts of fruit, vegetables, and flowers.

A FOOTBALL JUBILEE

BRITISH soccer officials recently attended celebrations in Paris to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the French Football Federation.

It was fitting that representatives of British football should have been there, for soccer was first introduced into France by a group of British players in 1888 who formed the Hayre Athletic Club.

Today the French Football Federation controls 7806 clubs and nearly half a million players.

Two exceptional points may be noted about the session of Parliament which opens on Tuesday this week, writes the C.N. Parliamentary Correspondent. Firstly, the State opening will be carried out in full regalia for the first time in ten years. The other feature is that this will be the longest of all sessions planned for the Parliament which was elected for five years from 1945. Normal sessions last about nine months. This one will occupy more than 12 months.

The Main Business

The short reason for the "Long Session" is the Parliament Bill previously described in these columns. This Bill, rejected twice already by the peers whose powers it reduces, will become law automatically after a third rejection by their lordships.

According to machinery laid down by Parliament 37 years ago, the Royal Assent will be given in December 1949—about a month after the end of this "third-rejection" session.

Parliament's main business, however, is likely to be the passage—or opposed rejection—of a Bill to nationalise "appropriate sections" of the iron and steel industry. If so, some people believe that the controversy might well lead to a General Election next year.

They feel that control of any kind in this most complex of industries would raise wide issues. For steel—far more than coal and quite unlike inland transport, electricity, and gas which are for home use only—is a powerful dollar-earning export, since British steel is second to none.

The King's Speech may also refer to a Bill for the safeguard and control of National Parks. Supporters of such a scheme want legislation defining our great beauty-spots, like the Lake District and the Pennine Way; and they want for them a maximum protection. In other words, this will be a Bill to kill vandalism.

National Parks

Up to now these areas have been administered by the several local councils concerned. Control may now be "nationalised," so to speak. A National Park Commission (presumably to be set up under the Bill) would appoint half the members of the various National Park Committees from truly "national" sources. The other half would be "locals." The chairman would be "independent," with a casting vote.

But from Parliament's point of view the scheme must have one main aspect: its administration must be answerable to Parliament. Any Bill, it is believed, would be modelled on the report of the Hobhouse Committee (so-called after its chairman), which recommended the proposals outlined above.

There is also a possibility that legislation to abolish the "99-years-lease" system may be introduced, but in most other respects this will not be a happy session. The Government has drawn up, under the shadow of threatened war, a scheme to reorganise Britain's civil defence on a framework of "target" and "non-target" areas. Both Houses will be asked to give Ministers power to put it into effect.

WORLD NEWS REEL

ADDRESS UNKNOWN. As its post office is always filled with undelivered mail from all over South Africa the Transvaal village of Onbekend (Afrikaans for unknown) is to have its name changed.

Not long ago an international conference promoted by Unesco was held at Fontainebleau with the aim of establishing an International Union for the Protection of Nature.

A rich radio-active mineral has been discovered on the uranium field at Mount Painter in South Australia. It has the radio-activity of pitch-blende, richest of all uranium-bearing ores.

The draft agreement for a Customs Union between Southern Rhodesia and South Africa is expected to receive final approval soon. It paves the way to removal of all trade barriers between the two countries, and other African territories may later join in the scheme.

ABSENT-MINDED. The Italian Professor Vassena, who worked for ten years on his midget submarine, forgot to close the conning-tower hatch when it was being towed from Naples Harbour for a new diving record, and so the vessel sank. It has now been located by divers and the professor says he will make another attempt.

HOME NEWS REEL

CLOCKS BACK. Summer-time ends at 2 A.M. on Sunday, October 31. All clocks and watches should be put back at bedtime on Saturday night.

An exhibition of church treasures from 130 parishes in the Portsmouth diocese included the marriage certificate of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza, and a register containing the baptism entry of Charles Dickens at St Mary's, Portsea.

Julie Andrews, the amazing 13-year-old soprano, has been chosen to appear before the King and Queen at the Royal Command Variety Performance at the Palladium next Monday.

A farmer at Macclesfield, Cheshire, found a seam of coal while digging in his garden.

ROSPA. A permanent Road Safety Training Centre and Exhibition has been opened in London by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. It is Rospa House, 17 Knightsbridge (Hyde Park Corner). The Society is to receive a Government grant of £2000 a year to expand its Home Safety work.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

RECRUITING DRIVE. 50,000 boy and girl Cadets of the St John Ambulance Brigade in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland have just been celebrating with special parades and rallies a Cadet Week during which a drive for recruits was made.

Senior Scout Patrick Smith, of the 29th Oxford Group, has been awarded the Scout Silver Cross for gallantry in rescuing a young man from drowning in the Thames near Oxford.

The Australian Government is to issue a special 2½d postage

stamp to coincide with the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree which is to take place at Melbourne from December 29 to January 9. See Page One.

SCOUTS AT SEA. In their launch Alert some New Zealand Sea Scouts have just made a two-month training cruise all round the coast of the Dominion, calling on Sea Scout troops at principal ports.

St Albans City Council have decided to let a C.D. Warden's Post to the local Boy Scouts instead of demolishing it.

REMEMBRANCE. A scholarship worth £60 for four years will be awarded each year to a Maori boy and a Maori girl attending a college in New Zealand. This is to be a memorial to Lieutenant Ngarimu, V.C., who died leading his Maori unit against the Germans in Tunisia in 1943.

By the end of October 14,000 emigrants will have sailed to Australia during the month. 7500 of them are from Britain, and the rest mostly from displaced persons' camps and elsewhere in Europe.

HAPPY STATE. The value of exports from Southern Rhodesia exceeded the value of imports in July for the first time this year.

Huntingdon Education Committee has approved a new by-law that no child shall be employed on Sunday.

Essex schoolchildren are to visit farms and nurseries to see the wide variety of work in agriculture and allied industries.

Since 1940 well over 50 million gift food parcels have been sent to this country.

NICE SURPRISE. The millionth passenger on British European Airways received a cheque for £11.

Captain Oliver Bird of Knowle, Warwickshire, recently gave £450,000 to the Nuffield Foundation for research into the prevention and cure of rheumatism.

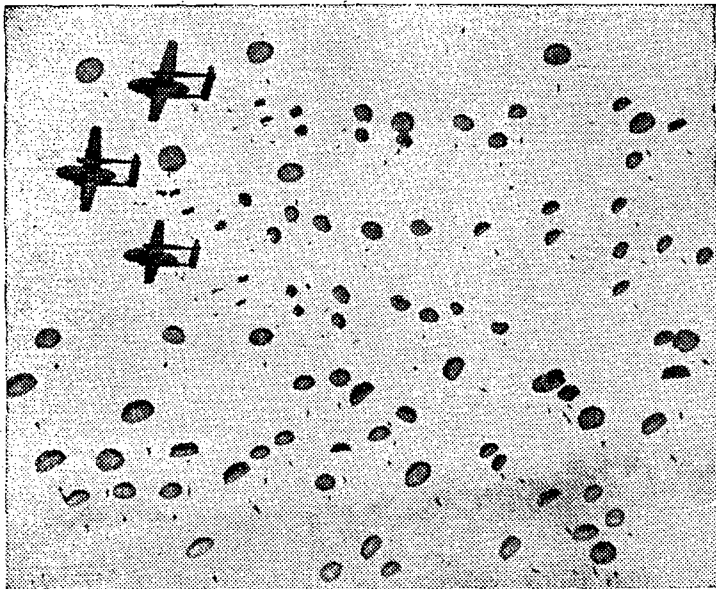
ALMA MATER. The sum of £50,000 has been bequeathed to Winchester College by a former pupil, Lieut-General John George Walters Clark.

A letter written at sea and dropped overboard in a bottle in 1900 was recently delivered to a Brighton address.

FOREIGN PARTS. Magistrates at Woburn, Bedfordshire, received a letter from Scotland recently stating that a certain person had "gone abroad to England."

John o' Groats is to be provided with an electricity supply, announces the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board.





Going Down

A spectacular mass parachute descent which took place during recent manoeuvres in America.

A New Musical Instrument

THE Ondes is a new musical instrument which is making a name for itself. It was recently incorporated in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham when recording Brian Esdale's music for the ballet *Red Shoes*. It was also heard by listeners to a recent broadcast of Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc*.

An electronic instrument invented by a Frenchman, M. Martenot, the Ondes can glide up or down the scale, quiver and warble in the most weird manner, and at the same time keep in tune with the other instruments of the orchestra.

MOLLY'S FARM

IN the Chester Zoological Gardens is a pig named Molly, who is quite a bit larger than her name suggests. She is proportionate to her size. Not long ago she was heard trumpeting distressfully from the house, and an official went to see what was the matter. There was nothing wrong with Molly, but a little girl of whom she is very fond, her mahout's daughter, had fallen down some distance away and was crying. Molly was noisily trying to get to her so that she could pick her up and comfort her.

The Pigeon That Played Truant

IMAGINE the surprise of a pigeon fancier in the city of Auckland, New Zealand, when he discovered that what he had supposed was a stray pigeon at his pigeon-loft was a bird which had flown away in 1942 and had been absent without leave for six years!

This truant pigeon was sent on a race from Wellington to Auckland, a distance of 300 miles, in November 1942. It failed to come home although other pigeons completed the flight in six to eight hours.

One day in September of this year the missing pigeon came back to its old loft and settled down as if nothing unusual had happened. It is now seven years old, but what it has been doing for the past six years its owner can only guess.

THE MEN WHO HUNTED THE MOA

SCIENTISTS in New Zealand are still piecing together fragments of information about the moa, the giant flightless bird which became extinct hundreds of years ago.

Many skeletons of moas have been found in caves and swamps, and some of these now in museums show that the moa was much larger than the ostrich which we may see in zoos. Some scientists think the men who hunted moas in New Zealand were a race who lived in the country before the coming of the Maoris between the years 900 and 1300.

According to one writer, these primitive people would stealthily creep up to where the moas had camped for the night and would lasso the giant birds. He has found signs that moa hunters lived on the banks of the Waitaki River in the South Island of New Zealand, and he believes that they floated their catches down the river to their village, where the flesh of the birds was preserved.

Whatever the reason and whenever the time, the giant moa perished in a land where once it was very numerous.

Cockneys



Pearlies and feathers at a harvest festival in the Old Kent Road.

VOTING IN THE OLD DAYS

IN a recent broadcast talk, "Almost a century's memories," Mr Theodore C. Taylor, a 98-year-old woollen manufacturer and former Liberal MP, recalled the time when "the chief qualification to vote for a member of Parliament was to own freehold property of the yearly value of at least £2, or to pay a higher rent than any working man could afford." He himself, said Mr Taylor, bought a one-sixth share in some cottages, and this gave votes to him and to five other men.

"In 1867," he continued, "there was no secret ballot. On the contrary, in order that everyone should know how everyone else had voted, immediately after a Parliamentary election a booklet was published with the name of every elector who had voted and for whom. I have a copy of the printed official list showing how every elector voted at the first Parliamentary election for Dewsbury in 1868."

A Chinese Typewriter

THE Chinese language is picturesque and difficult, and so are Chinese typewriters. Almost as big as dining tables, they look rather like a giant cash register, and are worked electrically on an intricate system known as the "four-digit." But now a modern Chinese typewriter has been designed, the owner, and indeed the designer, of the only one in existence, being Dr Lin Yu-tang, who has just been appointed Head of the Arts and Letters Division of the Unesco Secretariat.

This Chinese typewriter looks very much like the machines we are familiar with, writing from left to right instead of downwards. The main problem of the symbolic nature of the language is solved by making each key represent a component part of a character. Then, in order to type the whole character, the necessary combination of keys must be pressed down at the same time.

It is hoped that an American firm will produce great numbers of these modern typewriters for the Chinese.

Home of the Giants

A STRANGE house known as "the home of the giants" in Seville, Ohio, U.S.A., is to be demolished because it is too costly to maintain. It was built toward the close of the 19th century by a Captain Martin Van Bates for himself and his wife, Anna. Captain Bates stood seven feet eight inches in his bare feet and weighed 427 lbs. His wife was seven feet eleven inches tall and tipped the scales at 413 lbs.

Captain and Mrs Bates made a career for themselves by exploiting their unusual size and going into show business. They travelled all over the world and appeared before most of the crowned heads of Europe. Then shortly before 1900 Captain Bates

decided to settle down and build himself a house.

Everything in the huge 14-room mansion he planned had to be built giant-size. The doors were more than eight feet high, the ceilings more than ten feet, and even the windows were extraordinarily large.

Captain Bates died in 1919 when about 80. His wife had died several years before and the captain had remarried a lady whose height was a mere five feet two inches. This lady sold the giant home to its present occupant, who now announces that because it costs so much to keep in good order he intends to knock it down and build an average-size house on the site.

NO HURRY

WHEN a New Zealand citizen was recently nominated for a club it was explained to him that there was a waiting list of about 700 and that it might be years and years before his turn came. He replied that it was all right. He was prepared to wait. He was only 91!

Swimming for Health

EVERY day throughout the winter a burly, red-faced man of 57 will take a swim in the Serpentine or in Highgate Pond. Rain, fog, ice, snow—nothing will deter Dr George Brewster from taking his early morning dip before meeting his patients at his Southwark surgery.

Dr Brewster has been swimming for more than forty years. He has made twelve attempts to swim the Channel, and, despite his age, intends to make a thirteenth attempt next summer. Recently, too, he completed the 20 miles swim from Dover to Ramsgate on a blustery, chilly day when most people would have kept well clear of the sea.

He thinks there is nothing like swimming to maintain perfect health and fitness, and says he feels as fit today as he did twenty years ago. He never wears a waistcoat or an overcoat, and, no matter how low the thermometer drops, he never feels the cold—or catches a cold.

Off the Farmyard Ration

IF pigs and chickens knew what was going on they would be anxiously listening for news of the activities of school-children, Scouts, Guides, and other young people in collecting acorns and beechmast, which, in these times of restricted rations, form a very acceptable addition to the farmyard menu.

Youth leaders and teachers are asked by the Ministry of Agriculture to organise parties to collect acorns and beechmast. The Ministry say that a fair price for acorns in good condition is from 5s to 7s 6d per cwt; and for beechmast, free from burrs, from 7s 6d to 10s per cwt.

Before setting out to gather the harvest of the woods, however, it is wise to find out whether it can be readily sold. Local pig and poultry keepers should be asked what quantities they require. The Feeding-Stuffs Officer of the County Agricultural Executive Committee will assist by putting organisers of collecting parties in touch with likely purchasers.

It is important for collectors to remember that they should ask permission before entering private property.

Painter and Poet

FIFTY years ago this week there died a great painter, Puvis de Chavannes, who brought new life into French art. He developed an entirely new style of decorative wall painting, and the most famous examples of his work are the pictures adorning the walls of the Panthéon in Paris, which illustrate the life of St Geneviève, the patron saint of Paris.

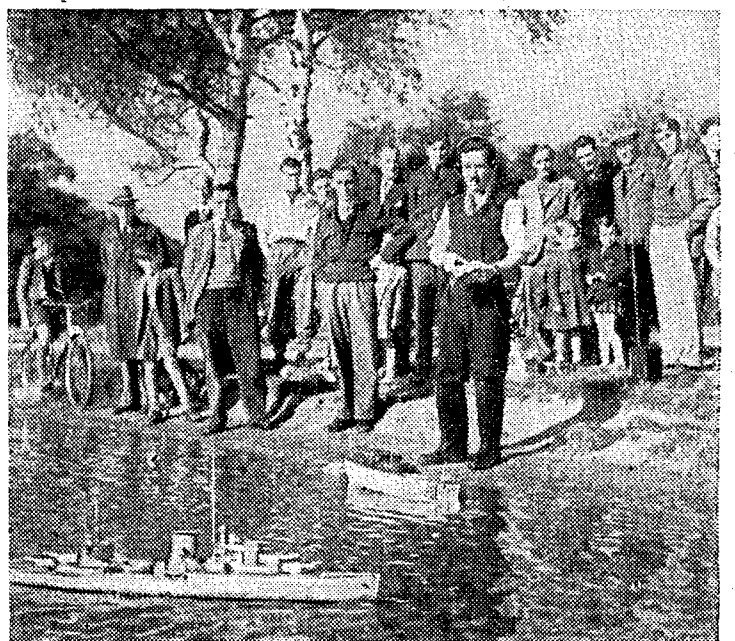
Puvis de Chavannes was half poet, half painter. His pictures are like restful dreams. In our Tate Gallery is a beautiful head painted by him, and another of his pictures, *Death and the Maidens*, is in the National Gallery.

SMITH'S KNOLL

"HERE is the special weather forecast for the Smith's Knoll area." Many listeners who have heard this announcement from the BBC wonder just where the Smith's Knoll area is, and why it now has a forecast all to itself.

Smith's Knoll is a fishing ground off the Suffolk coast. At certain seasons of the year fish gather there in great numbers, and the catch is unusually heavy. The majority of the fish are herrings, but cod and other fish are also caught.

Previously the fishermen had to make the best of the general forecast, but this season they have a special forecast of their own, with a 24-hour outlook.



Under Radio Control

This model battleship is being manoeuvred by radio control from the bank of the pond on Wimbledon Common, near London.



Food For Thought

How to arrange meals on a plate is the subject of this lecture at the BOAC School of Catering at Hurn in Hampshire, where air hostesses complete their training with a ten-week course.

Another Statesman Historian

THE publication of the first volume of Mr Churchill's history of the Second World War—*The Gathering Storm*—is an event of major importance in literary history. Only rarely does it occur that a man who has played such a great part at a critical stage of world history is also blessed with a breadth of imagination and a quality of style worthy of his subject. In years to come Mr Churchill's history is likely to be regarded as the standard work on the dark chapter of human history which has just been closed.

There is perhaps only one parallel to Mr Churchill in English history, and that is the famous 17th-century figure, Edward Hyde, who became Lord High Chancellor of England and was created Earl of Clarendon. He, too, was a celebrated statesman in his day; he, too, lived in stirring times, and witnessed the rise of Cromwell, the execution of a king, and the restoration of

his successor. And finally he, too, lived to chronicle these times in his great *History of the Rebellion in England*, a work which shows him not only a rare artist in words, but also a shrewd observer of events.

Hyde sat in both the Short and the Long Parliaments, and at first leaned to the popular side in his politics. By 1641, however, he decided that Parliament had gone too far in its demands on Charles I and he threw in his lot with the king. Charles recognised his ability, knighted him, and appointed him Chancellor of the Exchequer and a Privy Councillor.

Later Hyde followed the king's fortunes into the field and witnessed the Battle of Edgehill before escaping first to Pendennis Castle, in Cornwall, and then to Jersey, where he joined the Prince of Wales. During his two years in Jersey he wrote a considerable part of his *History of the Rebellion*.

The Widening Eye of Science

At the 93rd annual Exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society at Prince's Gate, London, is a section of Scientific Photographs which will remain open till the end of October.

Here are to be seen geological studies, studies of clouds, micro-radiographs of stainless and heat-resisting steels, air photographs and map revision from the air, photographs from the National Institute of Medical Research (including some obtained by ultra-violet microscopy), and, in rather lighter vein, the study of the action of the chameleon's tongue as it shoots out to capture a fly for its breakfast.

An attempt to describe in detail all these photographs is as impossible here as it is unnecessary; we do best to single out a few of the most unusual or ingenious. The X-ray high magnifications of the surfaces of steel and wood, which are enlargements to 500 times or more, rank high. Colour changes during the manufacture of razor blades from pearlitic malleable cast iron make very attractive photographs.

Then there are the radar photographs, and the tracks of the alpha and beta particles when an atom of radium naturally disintegrates.

Finally must be mentioned a photograph of a Meson track magnified 1250 times as it crashes through inferior particles. This may in some ways be considered as the rarest photograph of all, for a Meson is the most important of the cosmic rays which are now being studied in Manchester by Professor Blackett and others, and by Powell and Occhialini in California. The Meson disintegrates the nucleus of an atom, and from these experiments may arise the knowledge of the speed and mass of this newcomer in science.

Lock, Stock, and Barrel

SNAILS and suchlike are not the only creatures to take their homes with them. It has been announced that the 1200 British railwaymen whom the Government of Victoria, Australia, are seeking as immigrants, will take their own prefabricated houses.

This has already been done in the case of 600 Italians who sailed recently from Genoa. They are settling in Argentina, and the liner which took them carried a complete town of prefabricated buildings in its holds. Some dismantled factories, numbered ready for reconstruction, were included. The new town will be set up in the island of Tierra del Fuego, at Argentina's southern tip.

WORKERS' PARADE



Mr W. Kent of Gravesend is one of the few men in Britain making dolls for Punch and Judy shows.

The Editor's Table

FOUR UNITIES

UNITY with the Commonwealth, unity with Western Europe, and unity with America are the three unities which Mr Churchill and Mr Eden ask this country to support, and upon which to rest our foreign policy with confidence. To those unities may be added a fourth—unity with the United Nations.

This four-square unity is the bulwark of peace. Mr Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has re-asserted the strength of the United Nations as a sheet anchor in the present storms. "No nation," he says, "can successfully challenge the United Nations."

While these are only words, they are nevertheless words which have great moral strength behind them. The will of the whole world is for peace, and the expression of that will is in the United Nations, an adventure in world co-operation that is still a great hope for mankind.

ADDED to that hope are the three unities which depend so much on the English-speaking peoples on both sides of the Atlantic. America is giving rich resources to restore the life of Europe; Britain's leadership is essential for its accomplishment. Britain is able to add also the fourth essential unity in the group of free nations associated with her in the Commonwealth.

Together, these unities are a source of confidence and hope in anxious days. They are a reminder to the free peoples that unity is strength, and that only by division does weakness come. Acting upon these unities there is no storm that free men need fear, no onslaught beyond their capacity to resist.

Not only are these unities foundations for peace; they are also practical foundations for fairer days and better times.

*O, make thou us, thro' centuries long,
In peace secure, in justice strong;
Around our gift of freedom draw
The safeguards of thy righteous law;
And, cast in some diviner mould,
Let the new cycle shame the old.*

For Our Souls to Live In

MAKE yourselves nests of pleasant thoughts. None of us yet know, for none of us have been taught in early youth, what fairy palaces we may build of beautiful thoughts, proof against all adversity: bright fancies, satisfied memories, noble histories, faithful sayings, treasure-houses of precious and restful thoughts, which care cannot disturb, nor pain make gloomy, nor poverty take away from us; houses built without hands, for our souls to live in.

John Ruskin

Fruit of Our Labours

"SHOEMAKERS' children are always the worst shod" is an old proverb which might well apply to us today; for we make a host of excellent things we must sell abroad.

Speaking of this recently, Sir Frederick Bain, President of the Federation of British Industries, said: "We British people are entitled to some 'let up,' to a chance of choosing a proportion of good things—of the beautiful things which are being produced by ourselves but which we must sell abroad. The time is coming."

"Never before has so much drabness been borne by a great people for the benefit of all. Never before has so much severe discipline been voluntarily accepted by any nation in so-called peace. And this has taken place concurrently with an outpouring of new ideas, enterprise, and design that the world has not witnessed since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution."

Let us hope that our turn will soon come, as Sir Frederick indicated.

THANKS, OPERATOR

THE General Post Office has received a letter from a telephone caller, who writes: "My dog was very ill, and I knew of no 'vet' likely to be available, so I dialled 'O' and explained the position. Whoever answered that call has earned my undying gratitude for her courtesy, efficiency, and speed in finding one for me."

It is pleasing to record this act of grace in an age of bustle in which the little courtesies that oil the wheels of everyday affairs are too often overlooked. Telephone operators have a trying time and a word of thanks must be sweet music to their busy ears.

JUST AN IDEA

As Cicero wrote, *The best recommendation that a young man can have is modesty, filial affection, and devotion to kindred.*

Under the



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If the boy who
slipped on his
jacket fell over

DON'T let a draught sweep the perches of your hen house. Better use a brush.

THE word Posh is avoided in polite society. Isn't posh enough.

A WAVE of good manners is over-running Russia. Hope it will be a permanent wave.

BULBS can be relied upon to grow to an even height, says a gardening expert. But some don't even grow.

FOOD FROM FLOODED FIELDS

THOSE who have not seen rice growing in the flooded fields of Italy may have been surprised to learn recently that the Italian Rice Board, after providing for home needs, has sold 20,000 tons of the grain for export. We expect grapes, olives, and olive oil, as well as oranges and lemons,

from Italy, but few think of her as a producer of rice.

Rice, supposed to have originated in the East Indies, now grows wherever sufficient heat and moisture are available, mainly in Asia. It is computed that rice feeds one-third of the world's population. That may be an exaggeration, but the number of human beings dependent on rice as their main food is prodigious, and it is significant that the population is densest where rice is most abundantly grown.

Rice has need to be prolific, for where it thrives no other crop can be cultivated. Rice grows largely in water, to a depth of two or three inches for the young plants, and in a passive flood, feet deep, for the stems of the maturing grain. Where rains do not flood the fields, water has to be supplied by artificial means.

Under favourable conditions rice plants will grow as much as nine inches in a day, and whereas the average yield is two crops a year, rice-growing estates in Bengal, with the right soil suited to various varieties of grain, return five rice crops a year, a return for which Italy cannot hope.

Albatross Sanctuary

THREE chicks of the royal albatross, most majestic of all sea-birds, were reared during August and September in Otago Peninsula, about 20 miles from the New Zealand city of Dunedin.

Since 1937 the albatrosses have placed 15 chicks at this nesting place so close to the city, but unfortunately the big birds have sometimes been disturbed by people and animals wandering near their nests. So now the royal albatrosses of Otago Peninsula are protected by law—and a stout fence. The law warns people that they may be fined £20 for disturbing the nesting birds; the fence shuts off the end of the peninsula from sightseers and prowling animals.

A glimpse of Sutor Harbour, Plymouth.

STORING FRUIT IN MOSS

At midsummer next year you may be eating an English apple gathered this autumn. It will taste no different from a freshly-plucked one, if it is one of the 600 tons of dessert apples now being stored at Faversham in Kent. For at Selling Court Farm they are putting apples in cold storage, using ordinary woodland moss which preserves them for nine months—three months longer than the normal storage time.

This useful discovery was made accidentally some years ago by a Swiss engineer, M. Sapek-Krebs. While travelling in the Himalayas he came across some rare orchids which he wanted to send home to Switzerland. Having no means of keeping them fresh, he packed the flowers in a wooden box, lined it with damp moss from a nearby tree, and hoped for the best. On opening the box later he found the orchids in perfect condition.

A Cooling Agent

That started M. Krebs on a series of experiments lasting many years. He found out that moss has a highly-developed power of releasing moisture or of absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, and in this way keeps the air around it at a steady temperature. Also, because some evaporation takes place, the temperature of the air around the moss is lowered and purified.

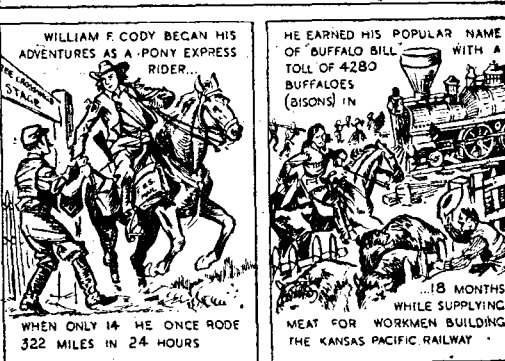
By using moss as a cooling agent it has been found possible to keep hard and soft fruits, root crops such as potatoes, and even cheese, for as long as six months beyond the normal storage period. Already many fruit vans on Continental railways are lined with moss in order to keep fruit fresh when it has to be carried long distances.

Moss storage has now been brought into England by Mr Howard Leicester, a fruit-storage expert. It is hoped to use this system on a wide scale in Britain, and eventually it should be possible for every greengrocer to have a small moss store in his shop.



FACT OF THE MATTER

WHO WAS THE REAL 'BUFFALO BILL'?



Why the Leaves Change Colour and Then Fall

Now Autumn's fire burns slowly along the woods, And day by day the dead leaves fall and melt.

The infinite variety and subtlety of the foliage in autumn make it a season unsurpassed in its loveliness. It is a loveliness we can all appreciate, tinged with melancholy though it be. But how many of us can say why the leaves turn yellow, brown, red, violet, blue, and orange at this time of the year?

To answer this question we must first answer the question: "Why do the leaves fall?" At first sight it might appear that frost and the fall in temperature are the causes of most trees shedding their leaves with the approach of winter. But actually these only hasten the process, as lack of moisture also does.

The real cause of the fall of the leaf is a vital process of growth, as the result of which a layer of cells called the layer of separation is formed, which grows in amongst the strong tissue of the leaf, tearing the older cells and causing a fracture. When this stage is reached the slightest breeze results in the leaf breaking away; but even in the absence of any external factor the leaf would still fall.

Before the leaves drop, everything which the tree needs for its nutrition is transferred from the leaves either into the roots or into the branches, there to be stored up for future use. This means the taking away of the chlorophyll granules which make up the green-colouring matter in plants, leaving only yellow granules and crystals, which are

of no further value for nutrition. In many trees the protective pigment anthocyanin is formed from the chlorophyll while this process is going on, and it is the mingling of this pigment with the yellow crystals which is responsible for the varied tints that so delight our eyes in the autumn. Red is the dominant colour of anthocyanin, but if no acids are present it is blue, and if there is but a little acid it is violet. Together with the yellow granules red anthocyanin can give to the leaf a burning orange hue.

What, it may well be asked, is the use of this yearly casting-off of old garments? And the answer is that in the main the leaves are made in order to use sunshine, and in the winter there is not enough sunshine, so the leaves would be comparatively useless. So the tree takes what it can use from the leaves and then sheds them. The leaves which cover the ground in autumn form the basis of the production of leaf-mould from which trees can obtain future nourishment. In the death of the leaf there is rebirth.

Charles Kingsley once lamented that the English had forsaken Spring to sing the praises of Autumn; perhaps it is because Winter not being so hard and bitter a season for us as for our forefathers we have come to appreciate better the lovely mellowness of Autumn, or, as it is still picturesquely known in many parts, the Fall.

REMEMBERING OUR POLISH ALLIES

A MEMORIAL to 2422 members of the Polish Air Force who gave their lives for the Allied cause in the war is to be unveiled near Northolt Airport, Middlesex, on November 2 by Marshal of the RAF Lord Tedder. A tribute to the memory of these brave Allies will be paid by Marshal of the RAF Viscount Portal.

The memorial, a tall column surmounted by a Polish eagle, rising from between two massive stone panels, is the work of a celebrated Polish sculptor, M. Lubelski. On the sides of the memorial are the names of the airmen—1243 of them sacrificed

their lives in actual combat, and many hundreds were killed in other ways while flying.

When we consider that the strength of the Polish Air Force at its highest was not more than 14,000 airmen, we realise how nobly our Polish friends shared in the perils of the common cause; and their battle honours, inscribed at the base of the column of the memorial—Britain, Atlantic, Dieppe, Western Desert, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany—show how widespread was the effort of Polish airmen when the Battle of Freedom was being fought.

THE PLAYERS IN THE BARN

MANY people have heard of Great Hucklow in Derbyshire as a gliding centre, but the tiny hamlet is not so widely known as the scene of a successful experiment in rural repertory. Its enterprising company of players have converted a disused barn into a village theatre which has patrons drawn from nearby villages and distant towns, coaches bringing steel-smelters from Sheffield, cotton-spinners from Manchester, and pottery workers from Staffordshire.

Acting, once largely confined to cities and towns, has now become a rural recreation, and domestic servants, farmers, quarrymen, office-workers, and housewives around Great Hucklow have become skilled in the arts of drama and elocution. They are as familiar with the plays of Ibsen and Gogol as they are with the productions of Shakespeare, Sheridan, and Shaw. Some of them are quite at home with the microphone in the broadcasting studio, and frequently take part in radio programmes.

Humble Beginnings

For the first ten years of the Company's existence the Players staged their performances in a corrugated-iron building belonging to the Hucklow Holiday Home. Their tiny hall was lit by paraffin-lamps which had to be extinguished and re-lit with the co-operation of the audience. Stage-lighting and effects had to be improvised in various ways, and seating accommodation consisted of wooden forms.

The building now occupied by the Players has previously done service as an ore-house where miners stored lead, as a barn, a carpenter's shop, and a dwelling-house. It now has a heating system and is equipped with electric light and boasts tip-up seats.

The Great Hucklow Players have had the distinction of giving first performances of several important plays, and are now producing one by a French author which has never previously been staged in this country. It will run for three weeks.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures



Astonished that the flowers could talk, Alice said: "Aren't you sometimes frightened at being out here with nobody to look after you?" The Rose replied: "There's the tree." Alice asked: "But what could it do, if any danger came?" "It could bark," said the Rose. "It says 'Bough-wough!'" cried a Daisy; "that's why its branches are called boughs! Didn't you know that?" and all the daisies laughed.

"Silence!" cried the Tiger-Lily. "They know I can't get at them!" it panted. Alice told the daisies: "If you don't hold your tongues, I'll pick you!" There was instant silence. Then Alice asked: "Are there any more people in the garden besides me?" The Rose replied: "There's one other flower that can move about; here she comes!" It was the Red Queen, who had grown taller than Alice!

"Where are you going?" asked the Queen. "Look up, speak nicely, and don't twiddle your fingers!" Alice said she had lost her way. "What do you mean by your way?" said the Queen. "All the ways about here belong to me." Alice replied, "I only wanted to see the garden." The Queen answered, "Though you say 'garden,' I've seen gardens compared with which this is a wilderness!"

"I wanted to go up that hill," said Alice. "I could show you hills in comparison with which that's a valley," replied the Queen. "A hill can't be a valley; that would be nonsense," ventured Alice. "I've heard nonsense compared with which that would be as sensible as a dictionary," said the Queen. On the hill-top Alice gazed at the country. "Why, it's just like a large chessboard!" she cried.

What Will Happen to Alice in the Queen's Chessboard Realm? See Next Week's Instalment

THE THRONE OF STARS

By the C N Astronomer

THE splendid constellation of Cassiopeia may now be seen to advantage, being only a little to the east of overhead in the evening.

The easily-recognised W arrangement of its five brightest stars makes identification of each star easy. Usually an additional star is included, Kappa, and this produces the outline of a chair, as indicated on the map. This is popularly known as Cassiopeia's Chair, though it is more properly a throne in which Cassiopeia is sitting, for she is the "Queen of Beauty" of the ancient Phoenicians, who knew her as Quassiu-peara, a name which the ancient Greeks rendered as Cassiopeia.

The entire constellation covers a much larger area than is presented by these six stars and is teeming with stellar jewels just as large and bright but very much farther away. Many may be seen on a dark clear night, and multitudes more by binoculars. Myriads are revealed by telescopic powers, and many millions more shown to exist far beyond, their presence being revealed by their combined radiance. It is the radiance of all this host, many being upwards of 100,000 light-years distant, that is known as the Milky Way.

The fourth-magnitude star Eta, the nearest of all Cassiopeia's stars, is only 18 light years distant, that is 1,139,000 times farther than the Sun. It is composed of two suns, the smaller one revolving round the larger in 478 years and 8 months.

Alpha, also known as Schedar, which means Breast because it is so situated on Cassiopeia, is a great sun which radiates about 200 times more light and heat than our Sun, but from a distance 10,300,000 times farther away. This light varies, however, and sometimes dwindles to little more than half.

Beta is 2,911,000 times farther than our Sun, and radiates only about 19 times more light. Gamma is about 5,886,000 times farther than our Sun, and radiates about 90 times more light; while Delta, at a distance about 3,080,000 times farther, radiates about 15 times more light than our Sun.

Epsilon, about 19 million times farther away than our Sun, pours out some 300 times more light and heat, and is therefore the giant of the constellation of Cassiopeia.

Eclipse of the Sun

On Monday, November 1, the Sun will be totally eclipsed by the Moon for two minutes, but it will not be seen in this country. It will occur about 4 a.m., the cone of the Moon's shadow first striking the Earth near Nairobi in Kenya and then travelling south-eastwards across the Indian Ocean to the south of Australia and so to the South Pacific Ocean.

Thus there will be very little land from which it may be observed, except as a partial eclipse in East and South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

G. F. M.

A Cambridge College & Its Six Centuries

A FAMOUS Cambridge college, where students began to turn their thoughts to science when men thought the Earth was flat, has quietly been celebrating its 600th anniversary. It is Gonville and Caius College, founded in 1348 by a priest named Edmund Gonville.

Gonville was a progressive and broadminded man, and he seems to have wished the students at his college to study additional subjects to Theology; but he died before the college was completely established, and the good work was continued by the Bishop of Norwich, William Bateman, who added Medicine to the subjects to be studied.

Roll of Honour

From its beginning, therefore, Edmund Gonville's college has had scientific traditions, and several great medical men have studied within its walls, the most celebrated being Dr John Caius, from whom the College gets its second name. The most famous doctor of his time, and physician to Edward VI, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, he "refounded" the College in 1559. Not long after his death came William Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood. At the College at this early period, too, was a scientist named Edward Wright, who perfected the method of constructing maps called Mercator's Projection.

Among other great men who studied at Gonville and Caius were the saintly Jeremy Taylor, Thomas Shadwell the poet, Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange, and Charles Doughty, author of Arabia

Deserta. A man of whom the College is not proud was the infamous Titus Oates, a name which recalls that very gallant gentleman, Captain Lawrence Oates, who in 1912 went to the South Pole with Captain Scott and gave up his life for his comrades.

Reminiscent of that heroic episode, too, is a flag bearing the College arms which is preserved at Gonville and Caius. This is the flag that another son of the College, Dr Adrian Wilson, took with Scott's expedition to erect at the South Pole. But when they reached the Pole they found Amundsen's flag already there. Dr Wilson's flag was found in the tent in the icy wastes of Antarctica beside his body and that of Captain Scott.

A New Master

This sixth centenary year at the College is also memorable for the appointment of a new Master—Sir James Chadwick, the famous nuclear scientist who won the Nobel Prize in 1935 for his discovery, with Dr Rutherford, of the neutron. It is the neutron which has enabled scientists to split the atom.

Thus does the scientific and progressive tradition of Gonville and Caius flourish, handed down as an inspiration to future generations.

The Job of Our Dreams

How would you like to be an official ice-cream taster? To have relays of people bringing you samples of every kind of ice-cream, from apple ices to nut sundaes, to find out which you liked best. To most of us the idea seems like a beautiful dream, "such stuff as dreams are made on"; yet it has happened.

Sixteen youngsters between the ages of eight and ten, from Dr Barnardo's Village Home at Barkingside, have been chosen to form an Ice-Cream Tasting Panel, with the object of discovering for Messrs Wall the special fancies in ice-cream eating among young folk.

These expert ice-cream tasters, at their meetings, are asked to state (after extensive trial) their favourite flavour and their favourite colour. Another "test" is to find out with what other dish ice-cream best combines; is it nicest with Swiss roll, jelly, cereals, chocolate sauce, or—surely a novelty—plum pudding?

The manufacturers hope that as a result of these meetings of the Tasting Panel they will be able to sell the type of ice-cream that makes the greatest appeal to children. The Panel have indeed a most serious duty to perform, and we feel quite sure they take it seriously.

A SCHOOL AT LAND'S END

GENERAL EISENHOWER'S Number 1 Signals Officer in North Africa, Major-General Leslie R. Nicholls, has been sent to Cornwall to plan a £42,000 training school for the world organisation of Cable and Wireless.

The school is to be built at the Porthcurno Cable station, in a little inlet in the cliffs at Land's End, where the company's under-sea cables from all over the world come ashore. It will accommodate 80 students, and it is anticipated that the buildings will be ready for them in 1950.

General Nicholls told a C N correspondent that in order to maintain the company's overseas engineer staff at the efficiency level of 700, it will be necessary to increase the number of recruits from 25 to 40 or 50 a year for the next two or three years.

It is intended that the students shall be given a training that will enable them to become certificated members of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and for this purpose they would be given six months' training at the Company's London School, 12 months at the new Porthcurno School, three years abroad, and then a six months' advanced course back at Porthcurno.

During the war the Porthcurno cable station, which was the main link in the chain of communications between Britain and the Empire, was housed in an invasion-proof tunnel. It is proposed to bring the station above ground again now, but the tunnel will be maintained so that the whole system could go underground again within three months, if necessary.

LINGFO & FIZZ THE FUNNY FIZZERS. "BOBBY'S BIRTHDAY"

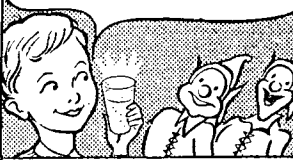
LINGFO! I'VE GOT AN IDEA - LET'S GIVE BOBBY A BIRTHDAY PARTY!



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THANKS GIRLS AND BOYS

Wouldn't you like to think that you had earned the thanks of some boy or girl whose childhood is not as happy as your own. Some boy or girl whose parents are not as kind as yours? We are sure you would. The best way to help is by joining the League of Pity.

Wear this fine badge and show you are helping to do a great work. Every member who gives 10/- is entitled to it. Why not write to the Director and ask him to send you full details?

Join the L.O.P

Junior Branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Victory House, Leicester Sq., London, W.C.2



Have You Had YOUR Copy Of This NEW 1/- BOOK BY Enid Blyton ?

THOUSANDS of boys and girls have already been lucky enough to get a copy of Enid Blyton's Road-Safety Colouring Book. But the point is—have you got your copy? The book costs only 1/- from newsagents or bookshops—and you'll have

HOURS OF FUN

colouring the 26 pictures and reading the 26 verses which Miss Blyton has written for your special benefit. Your parents and your school teachers will be very interested to see how you colour these important Road-Safety pictures. If you cannot get this book from your local shops, you may send a Postal Order for 1/- to the Publishers—PITKINS, 5/6 CLEMENTS INN, LONDON, W.C.2—and they will post it to you. When writing, please give your age and say where you go to school. And when you get the book, please show it to your friends.

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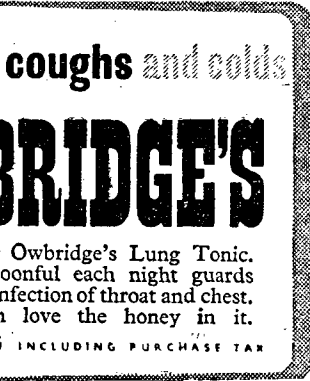
Have you read the AUTUMN NUMBER "Wild Life" —the Country Lovers' Magazine?

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THE BRAN TUB

NOT WORRYING

THE eldest son went into his father's bedroom during the night.

"Father, I think there's a burglar in the house," he whispered.

"That's all right," sleepily replied Father. "All he'll get here is practice."

The Letter H

IN last week's CN we gave the petition sent by the letter H to the inhabitants of Shrewsbury. The good people were rightly indignant and retorted thus:

Whereas we've rescued you, ingrate,
From handcuff, horror, and from hate,
From hell, from horse-pond, and from halter,
And consecrated you in altar;
And placed you where you ne'er should be,
In honour and in honesty—
We deem your prayer a rude intrusion,
And will not mend our elocution.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Wary Red-legs. Under the hedgerow, some half-dozen birds crouched in the stubble.

"Partridges!" exclaimed Don, recognising the handsome mottled buff and black plumage. "They are big ones," he added.

"They are French partridges," said Farmer Gray. "Besides being bigger than the common partridge their plumage is lighter, which makes them less difficult to see. Another difference is that they have bright red legs, and are often known as Red-Legged Partridges. They were introduced into this country towards the end of the 18th century. French partridges are very difficult to photograph, owing to their extreme wariness."

BEDTIME CORNER

We Two

I'm only just seven,
But when I'm a man;
I think I shall marry
Elizabeth Ann.

She's got lots of treasures
And wears pretty socks;
I know she has chocolates,
She keeps in a box.

I'm sure she will marry,
In fact she asked me,
And we've both decided
To live in a tree.

We shall build a fine house,
With windows and doors,
And put lots of polish
On all of the floors.

There'll be no one to worry
Or put us to bed,
And tell us it's silly
To stand on our head.

But the best thing of all—
From our house to the ground;
We'll have a long staircase
That goes round and round.

Eric Weeks

A BOY'S PRAYER

GOD who created me
Nimble and light of limb,
In three elements free
To run, to ride, to swim:
Not when the sense is dim,
But now from the heart of joy,
I would remember Him.

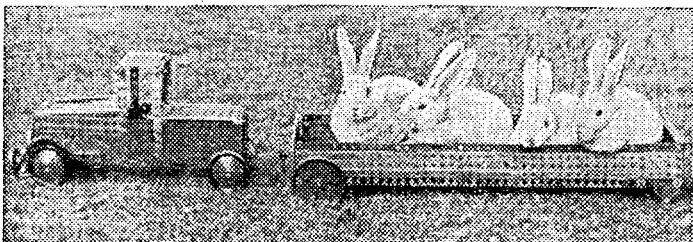
Take the thanks of a boy.
Canon Beching

Catch Question

How do you pronounce
VOLIX?

Volume nine

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



A CN reader sends us this photo of his pet rabbits riding in a home-made trailer.

Jacko and Chimp Get into a "Tidy" Mess



Jacko and Chimp thought their afternoon's work a sweeping success.



When the rubbish collector arrived they had just finished.



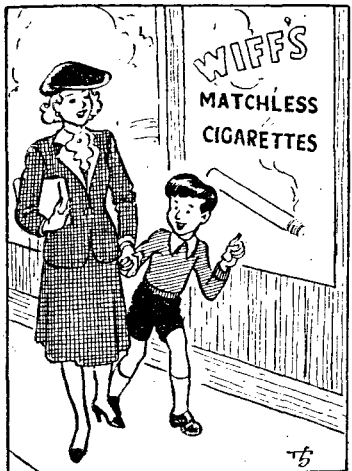
And when he had departed they were just beginning—again!

All of Them

MR JOLLIBOY was elderly and plump. He was praising the youth of today.

"Why, only today three young lads in a crowded train got up and offered me their seats. And," he added with a twinkle, "I took them."

RODDY



"Does that mean they light themselves, Mummy?"

Other Worlds

IN the evening Jupiter is low in the south-west. In the morning Venus and Saturn may be seen in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 7 o'clock on Friday morning, October 29.



WHAT TOWN IS THIS?

IN the month but not in the year,
In the lord but not in the peer,
In the crease but not in the tuck,
In the quail but not in the duck,
In the sound but not in the noise,
In the lads but not in the boys,
In the sky for you to see,
This Devon town—what can it be?

Answer next week

Seasonable Fare

THERE was an old man on the coast,
Who lived on salt water and toast,
For a change he'd eat sand,
Which he thought simply grand,
But seaweed was what he liked most.

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, October 27, to Tuesday, November 2.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Toytown Mystery. 5.30 Book Review. Midland, 5.30 Choir of High Oakham Girls' School, Mansfield. North, 5.0 Sing-Song; A Hallowe'en Story; Railway Bureau; John Metcalf of Knaresborough—a play. Scottish, 5.30 Mrs Fluff the Moon, Piano.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Baby Rabbit's Real Name; The Black Wherry (6); Lullabies. Welsh, 5.30 Junior Record.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Monkey Puzzle (3). 5.40 A Dublin Nursery (3). North, 5.40 Commonwealth Affairs.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Dobson and Young; Puzzles. Midland, 5.0 Magazine; Songs: The Hole in the Trellis (3). Scottish, 5.0 Music and a story; Hallowe'en. West, 5.0 Never Say Die—a story. 5.15 Once a Month. 5.45 My Friends the Badgers.

SUNDAY, 5.0 A Tale of Two Cities (4). Scottish, 5.0 Tanglefoot—a play; Carriages—a talk; Music; Morocco Land—a story; Aberdeen Arion. Choir; Grandpa Ginke's Scarf.

MONDAY, 5.0 Tales of Sam Pig (4). 5.15 Mitcham County School for Girls' Choir. 5.40 The Kabul Road—a talk. Midland, 5.15 Gunpowder Treason, and Plot!—a play. North, 5.0 Four in Hand; A Professor Branestawm story; Music Talk. Scottish, 5.15 Prince Penny Finds a Princess—a story; Competition Results. 5.40 Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Treasure Seekers (9). 5.30 Down at the Mains. N. Ireland, 5.0 The Turf-cutter's Donkey (4). 5.30 Nature Quiz. North, 5.0 Young Artists. 5.30 Nature Quiz. Scottish, 5.0 Bran and the Thief.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

SMITH: There was a fine story in last night's paper. Did you read it?

JONES: No, I seldom read fiction in the paper—just occasionally the weather reports.

What Your Name Means

Roger ... spear of fame
Roland ... fame of the land
Rosa ... a rose
Rosalie ... rose and lily
Rosalind ... like a rose
Rosamond ... famed protection

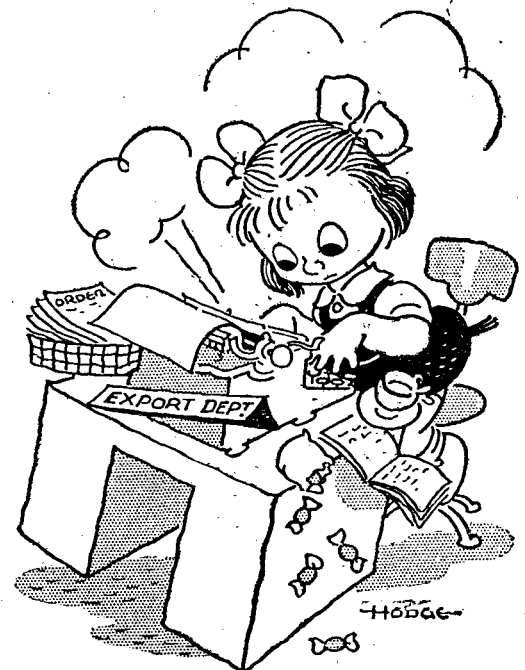
LAST WEEK'S

ANSWERS

What Am I?
A river

T	A	R	T	W	E	E	T
A	R	K	L	I	E		
R	O	V	E	O	M	E	N
E	F	M	I	R	E	L	T
E	S	T	O	R	I	E	D
A	H	L	E	G	S	M	
P	O	L	O	I	S	L	E
S	U	E	U	N	A	N	A
E	I	T	O	N	S	V	N

BRITAIN'S NEED IS SPEED!



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